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| **Date:** | 6 February 2012 |
| **Subject:** | NBN enables online hospitality training |

Money may make the world go round, but how often do we stop to think about the skills of those on the receiving end of a transaction to handle cash and electronic payments?

In a project funded by the National VET E-learning Strategy, a Hobart-based registered training organisation is using the super-fast broadband speed of the National Broadband Network (NBN), AARNET and ADSL2+ to deliver work-based training and assessment in cash handling and the use of EFTPOS facilities.

Lead project agent Industrylink Culinary School of Excellence identified the opportunity to deliver online work-based training and assessment in the ‘Process Financial Transactions’ unit of competency to hospitality apprentices, trainees and employers. The unit was selected for its usefulness to the learners as a stand-alone skills-based unit, its relatively narrow scope and – as a cross-sector unit – its applicability across 23 nationally recognised qualifications.

The project has been made possible through funding from the National VET E-learning Strategy, whose NBN E-learning Programs provide opportunitiesto create innovative approaches to demonstrate the power of broadband to enhance outcomes for learners, and promote growth in broadband-based training as the NBN rollout proceeds.

“With training to be delivered via recorded live streaming to learners around NBN rollout sites in Tasmania, Melbourne and Townsville, the project aims to facilitate the recruitment, growth and certification of trainees, apprentices and employees in the hospitality area,” says National NBN Program Manager Fiona Huskinson.

A Hobart-based registered training organisation, Industrylink Culinary School of Excellence provides training for people working in the hospitality industry. Successfully delivering this unit solely via superfast broadband technology will support its longer-term goal of delivering a whole hospitality qualification via the NBN.

“Through this Strategy, we are supporting the development of e-learning programs that maximise the opportunities associated with the rollout of the NBN,” says FLAG Chair Raymond Garrand, Chief Executive of the South Australian Department of Further Education, Employment, Science and Technology.

“We are excited at the high quality of these projects, which demonstrate the strong interest in increasing participation in training and improving skill levels in the workforce.”

**Core statements for editorial use**

* The National VET E-learning Strategy 2012-2015 (‘the Strategy’) is aimed at strengthening the Australian training sector’s use of new learning technologies, stimulating innovative approaches to increasing participation in training and employment, and improving the skill levels of the Australian workforce
* Investment in the Strategy will stimulate innovative approaches to increasing participation in training and improve the skill levels of the Australian workforce
* To enable the three-year program of action, government funding has been approved to:
* capitalise on the rollout of the National Broadband Network by demonstrating the benefits of the national investment in broadband
* support large-scale workforce development in industry through partnerships and comprehensive e-learning advice
* expand participation and access for individuals through e-learning programs delivering foundation skills and e-literacy
* The Strategy is managed by the Flexible Learning Advisory Group (FLAG), a key policy advisory group on national directions and priorities for information and communication technologies in the VET sector
* The chair of FLAG is Mr Raymond Garrand, Chief Executive of the South Australian Department of Further Education, Employment, Science and Technology.

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